

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present and voting in the House of Representatives on February 13, 2017 due to weather conditions in my home state of Maine that prevented me from travel. If I had been present and voting, I would have voted Aye on Roll Call vote 86 and Aye on Roll Call vote 87 to H.R. 244 and H.R. 974 respectively.

HONORING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP) ON ITS 108TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am pleased to join my colleagues in honoring the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for its 108th Anniversary after the organization was first founded on February 12, 1909. The NAACP is a prominent African-American civil rights organization in the centuries-old fight for social, economic, and political equality under the law for all Americans.

The NAACP is an organization that is deeply rooted in our nation's history. It is the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States. The NAACP is founded on the noble pillars of equality, non-discrimination, and morality, and has historically been successful in achieving its goals through non-violent protest, education, and legal and moral persuasion. The NAACP was pivotal in the passage of historic pieces of legislation such as the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, and countless other legal victories in our nation's history.

As a member of the African-American community, fighting for the rights of African-Americans, and other minority populations across the country, is of personal significance. Our desire to bring equal treatment and rights to all Americans has helped fuel the diversity and strengths that we as a country enjoy today. It is through our differences that we are able to see value in many different perspectives. However, it was not without struggle to arrive at this point and we have organizations such as the NAACP, in part, to thank for the reconciliation of past harms while having the tools to address new challenges.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we recognize the contributions and struggles of the people behind organizations such as the NAACP so that we can learn from our past and avoid making the same mistakes again in the future. The NAACP continues to be a leader in raising awareness around social issues facing our country today, such as threats to voting rights. We owe it to future generations to continue the legacy of the NAACP, so that we can continue to build a stronger and better nation for our children.

ADWEST CONSULTING, INC. NANCY CREGO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize AdWest Consulting, Inc. for being honored as the Woman-Owned Business of the Year by the West Chamber of Commerce.

AdWest Consulting was founded in Jefferson County in 1986 by Nancy Crego. AdWest delivers multi-media branding, community marketing and publications through video, film and magazines. The AdWest team is local and collaborates with more than 400 Colorado clients to promote their businesses and messages. It currently publishes the West Chamber's Best of Business magazine and the award-winning Wellness Living Magazine. AdWest also publishes the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce directory and magazine.

Nancy's career spans four decades of serving her community and understanding the needs of women who own companies as they balance family and career. She has worked with dozens of nonprofit associations and business groups. Currently, she volunteers for the Colorado Symphony Orchestra Guild, Plan Jeffco, and Mount Vernon County Club Metro District Financial Planning Committee.

I extend my deepest congratulations to AdWest Consulting for this well-deserved honor from the West Chamber of Commerce.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MS. MONTANA BYERS TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND CALIFORNIA'S 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN THE SPRING OF 2017

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional young woman who is spending the spring semester interning in my Washington, D.C. office. Ms. Montana Byers came to our office as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme (UCWIP), and has been a valuable contributor to our efforts on behalf of California's Eleventh Congressional District.

Since 2000, UCWIP has worked with congressional offices to foster strong ties and understanding between the United States and Australian governments by bringing the best and the brightest from top Australian universities to intern on Capitol Hill. I am proud to be involved in this wonderful program for the second year in a row.

Montana Byers, a student from the University of Wollongong, has worked in our office since January and quickly proved herself to be a highly valuable member of our team. She has drafted legislative requests, attended briefings, written constituent mail, and researched important issues, among many other duties. She consistently displays a deep desire to learn and treats everyone that she encounters with respect. Her hard work and

dedication is a tremendous asset to our office and the Eleventh Congressional District.

My team has learned a great deal from Montana about her native country as she has learned about the United States and the U.S. Congress. She is an absolute pleasure to have in the office and I offer her my thanks for a job well done. I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MARK AND CYNTHIA CRAIG FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM IN THE CITY OF BUFFALO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Cynthia Craig, dedicated volunteers and residents of Buffalo, New York. Their tireless service is recognized today by None Like You/ We Care Outreach and the City of Buffalo.

Mark is a Buffalo native, a University at Buffalo graduate and was employed by County Lime Stone in Akron for 36 years. Cynthia moved to Buffalo in 1984 and began work with the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Funeral Directing. Since 1987 she has worked in the New York State Department of Cemeteries and is a New York State Licensed Funeral Director.

The Craigs are a great team who have been a part of None Like You/We Care Outreach program since 2000. They have served on the board, worked on the reorganization and rehabilitation of the Concordia Cemetery and have served thousands over the past 15 years at Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners with None Like You/ We Care Outreach.

Mark and Cynthia have been instrumental in the reconstruction of abandoned houses in the City of Buffalo and have helped supervise summer and student volunteers who help to clean up empty lots and build community gardens.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mr. and Mrs. Craig and their admirable dedication to the City of Buffalo. The Craig's commitment to their community is exceptional, and they are most deserving of this recognition by None Like You/ We Care and the City of Buffalo.

CONGRATULATING THE HOTEL CHINESE ASSOCIATION OF USA ON THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hotel Chinese Association (HCA) of USA on their 10th Anniversary Gala.

Over the past decade, the Hotel Chinese Association of USA has been a leader in the New York City immigrant community. By providing assistance to workers in the Hospitality industry, the HCA has helped thousands of hotel workers in their 10 year history.